

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4211

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH HK TW

SUBJ: HONG KONG COMMUNIST PAPER ARTICLE ON TAIWAN

SUMMARY: A HONG KONG -PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPER THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF A "SPECIAL FEATURE" HAS RIDICULED THE IDEA OF AN INDEPENDENT TAIWAN. THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOVIET LINK WITH TAIWAN IS DOWNPLAYED WITH THE ARTICLE CONTENDING THAT THE US WOULD ACT TO LIMIT ANY SUCH SOVIET MOVES. THE TIMING OF THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT IT MIGHT BE AN OBLIQUE RESPONSE TO MADAME CHIANG'S RECENT PUBLIC REMARKS WHICH HAD A CONCILIATORY NOD FOR THE SOVIETS. END SUMMARY

1. THE PRC-OWNED HONG KONG NEWSPAPER TA KUNG PAO ON MARCH 12 CARRIED A "SPECIAL FEATURE" ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION BASED ON A SPEECH SAID TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY KYOTO UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, CHIN SHANG-CHING (0064/0006/3237), AT A SYMPOSIUM MARKING THE FEB. 28, 1947 TAIWAN UPRISING. AS NEITHER CHING NOR THE SYMPOSIUM IS FURTHER IDENTIFIED IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE PROFESSOR IS A NATIVE TAIWANESE OR MAINLAND CHINESE RE-
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SIDING IN JAPAN.

2. THE ARTICLE CITES TAIWAN ITSELF, THE US, CHINA AND JAPAN AS THE FOUR "IMPORTANT ELEMENTS" DETERMINING TAIWAN'S FUTURE. FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON A DISCUSSION OF TAIWAN AND CHINA. THE ARTICLE MAKES A BASIC DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THE "CHIANG KAI-SHEK CLIQUE/ AND THE MAJORITY TAIWANESE POPULACE, DECLARING THAT, EVEN AFTER CHIANG'S DEATH, THE MKT CLIQUE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEPARATE TAIWAN FROM THE MAINLAND. THE ARTICLE POINTS TO THE PRC'S STRENGTHENED INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STATUS, REDICULES THOSE ENTERTAINING NOTIONS OF AN INDEPENDENT TAIWAN AND REFUTES CLAIMS THAT A SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC BASIS FOR AN INDEPENDENT TAIWAN EXISTS. IN ASSERTING THE INEVITABILITY OF TAIWAN'S RETURN AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AS A PART OF CHINA'S NATIONAL ECONOMY, THE ARTICLE SEES AN ANALOGY BETWEEN TAIWAN AND CHINA'S NORTHEAST, AN AREA ONCE UNDER JAPANESE CONTROL AND INTEGRATED INTO JAPAN'S ECONOMY BUT NOW AN IMPORTANT AND DEVELOPED AREA OF CHINA.

3. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE THE US FINALLY RECOGNIZED THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE CHINA AND, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE US SEVERES " STATE RELATIONS" WITH TAIWAN. JAPANESE "MONOPOLY CAPITALISTS" ALSO ARE SAID TO HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE A STEP CLOSER TO CHINA.

4. ADDRESSING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET INTERFERENCE, THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY MADE PRELIMINARY MOVES (NO DETAILS CITED) BUT CLAIMS THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN TAIWAN CANNOT EQUAL THAT OF THE US AND JAPAN. IT DOWNPLAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY CHIANG-SOVIET COLLUSION, AND CONCLUDES THAT THE US WOULD NOT SIT IDLY BY AND PERMIT THE SOVIETS TO STEP IN. BUT, THE ARTICLE CONTENDS THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SINO-SOVIET TENSIONS WILL FURTHER INTENSIFY.

5. COMMENT: TA KUNG PAO'S TREATMENT OF THE ARTICLE OBVIOUSLY INDICATES PRC CADRE ENDORSEMENT OF THE MAIN THEMES PRESENTED. THE TIMING OF THE ARTICLE IS INTERESTING. IT COMES SOME TWO WEEKS AFTER THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEB. 28, 1947 TAIWAN UPRISING AND A FEW DAYS AFTER MADAME CHIANG'S RECENT PUBLIC REMARKS CONTAINING UNUSUALLY CONCILIATORY REFERENCES TO THE SOVIETS (TAIPEI 1160). NEITHER NCNA OR OTHER PRC MEDIA IN CHINA HAS MENTIONED OR NOTED MADAME CHIANG'S REMARKS. TA KUNG PAO , LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER, COULD WELL HAVE CHOSEN THIS ARTICLE AS ITS OWN RIPOSTE.

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